

# MOTHERS DEMAND RECALL OF DO-NOTHING SCHOOL BOARD

## End of Double Sessions Seen

Steps to eliminate double sessions in the elementary schools were taken by the Board of Education Tuesday night when the Board authorized that steps be taken to construct portable classrooms at three critical school locations.

The three critical locations are North Torrance elementary school, and Seaside elementary school.

All three schools are to receive a double kindergarten unit. In addition North Torrance and Perry are to receive three double classrooms.

Eliminate Double Sessions  
These additional units are to accommodate a total of 822 children, thus doing away with double sessions at these schools based on the expected September enrollment.

It is expected that these classrooms will be completed 60 days after bids have been awarded which is expected to take place very shortly.

The portable classroom units are about \$4000 cheaper than

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## 2 Escape Car Crash Injuries

Kenneth Lee Stevenson, 20, of 1008 Maple avenue and Frank G. Schmidt, 20, of 1918 Cabrillo avenue escaped serious injuries in a crash which completely demolished their late model sedan Sunday.

The car bounced off a huge tree, rolled several times, and came to rest in the middle of heavily traveled Western avenue just north of 226th street.

Stevenson, who was driving received only minor injuries.

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Mounting dissatisfaction against the Torrance Board of Education was heard this week and talk of a recall action against all the members of the Board was spreading.

This drastic action is being considered following the Board's "do-nothing" attitude towards a group of more than 30 working mothers who have asked that the day care center for their children be continued. The Board abolished this center in a sudden move at its last meeting.

The working mothers, who are the only means of support for their children, pleaded with the Board to work out some workable basis by which the child center at the Torrance elementary school might be continued there or elsewhere.

It is entirely up to the Board whether it will or won't continue providing the space for this service, it was pointed out. Providing the space for the center is the Board's only obligation, since the cost is carried by the State and by the mothers.

The Board's unresponsive attitude was cited as being greatly responsible for the recall action. A number of mothers are planning to contact clubs and organizations in this area to back them in this move.

The Board did nothing to even indicate that they would look into the matter further and possibly meet with a committee to see what can be done. They simply assumed a "let-George-do it" and a "wait-and-see," attitude, despite the fact that they have only till September 9 to do something about the matter, it was declared.

## Moms Fight End Of Care Center

More than 30 working mothers who are the only means of support for their children protested the sudden closing of the special day care center by the Board of Education. Members of the Board held out very little hope for the mothers but told them Tuesday night that they should present the Board with a "workable plan," which would be taken "under advisement."

Closes Center  
The special day care center has been in operation at Torrance Elementary school since World War II. It was designed to take care of children whose mothers are working and who are the children's only means of support or care.

The School Board did away with the center at its last meeting because this service was considered a fringe benefit. It was explained that the space used by the center was needed for classroom purposes.

The mothers stated that they would have to go on State aid if the child care center were closed.

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## Bixby Slough Project To Start Soon

Early construction of the Bixby Slough-Downing street storm drain was indicated today as County Supervisor Burton W. Chace disclosed that bids to construct the \$797,600 project will be advertised next month.

The drain will form the first step in converting Bixby Slough—a dangerous swamp that has claimed the lives of many Harbor District children.

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# TORRANCE PRESS

Conveniently Located at 1406 Cravens Avenue — Phone FAirfax 8-2345

VOLUME VI No. 20 THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1954 — TORRANCE, CALIF. 5 cents 119

# Civic Center Election Planned For October 19

## LATE NEWS

**COLLISION:** Three women were injured, one an expectant mother, when the two cars in which they were riding collided at Crenshaw boulevard and Pacific Coast highway. Taken to Harbor General Hospital were Mary Ellen Jones, 19, of 2153 238th street and the other occupant of her vehicle, an expectant mother, Mrs. Jacqueline Winger, 21, of 25540 Cypress, Lomita. Also taken to the hospital was Beryl Grace Paletz 33, driver of the other car. None were said to be injured seriously.

**ORIENTATION WEEK:** Orientation week in the Torrance school district

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OVERCROWDED . . . The proposed new civic center for which a special bond election has been called will provide a larger police station and jail facilities, among other things. Present police quarters are considered completely inadequate for coping with the problems of this growing community.

## Last Minute Check Made Of Petitions

The City Council raced against time this week to call for a special civic center bond election October 19.

Notice of a special election must be published 31 days before the date set and no sooner than 60 days before that date. It was discovered that a formal approval of the recently circulated petitions had not been obtained and the city clerk was instructed to check the names immediately.

The signatures were checked

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## THIEF OPENS SAFE TAKES \$517 CASH

A safe at the Western Avenue Brick Yard, 17799 South Western avenue, was burglarized last week and \$517.28 was stolen. Over \$2000 in checks were left in the safe, according to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton.

The burglar entered without forcing the door. Apparently knowing the safe's combination, he opened the safe and took out the money. Thereupon he locked the safe again and reset the combination, Ashton stated.

## PLANNERS STUDY NEW TORRANCE ZONE PLAN

A map showing the proposed rezoning of large parcels of land for retail shopping and commercial purposes was submitted to the Planning Commission last night by George Powell, advisor to the Commission.

The map is an outgrowth of a recommendation made recently by Councilman Victor Benstead to rezone large parcels of land for commercial purposes. Benstead claimed that the city's commercial development was not keeping pace with the city's industrial and residential development.

The map will be inspected by members of the Planning Commission for discussion and changes, Powell stated. He expects that the Commission will have it worked out by September 1 at which time separate hearings will be held.

These hearings, which will be held

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## DRESSER IS GUILTY

Former City Building Inspector James Dresser was found guilty on one count of practicing architecture without a license and fined \$50. The fine was imposed by South Bay Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett Monday.

Dresser and his assistant, Cecil Smith, were fired by the City Council recently following investigation of charges that he had allowed homes in North Torrance to be improperly constructed.

## Park Fee Amendment To Avoid Future Law Suits

A proposed amendment to the city's parks and recreation fee ordinance is expected to avoid the type of trouble recently precipitated by the present ordinance. Trouble arose when Henry Griswold, owner of the Ambassador Construction company threatened to sue both the city and the city councilmen over the legality of the ordinance.

## AWARD BIDS FOR SEWER SYSTEMS

Sewer systems to serve portions of Hollywood Riviera and North Torrance will be installed starting at the end of the month, according to City Engineer Ronald Bishop.

The Riviera system embraces the south section of the area and the north Torrance lines will be installed northwest of Crenshaw Blvd. and 190th St.

The City Council has awarded contracts to the Mike Ramljac Co. for the Riviera work and to the Bob Bosnyak Co. for the north Torrance project.

The Ramljac proposal was \$172,155, low among 13 bidders; the Bosnyak bid was \$84,696, low among 16. The Riviera job had been estimated at \$228,354 and the north project had been priced at \$105,279.

Bishop said work on both installations is due to begin by the end of this month. The Riviera work will take about four months and the north Torrance operation is due for completion by December.

## NEW MORTUARY FEATURES ENGLISH ARCHITECTURE

After weathering an eight months delay, Henry R. Halverson and Alfred T. Leavell, brothers-in-law, are proceeding rapidly with the building plans which will enable the construction of a chapel and mortuary on the corner of Engracia and Cravens.

An English style of architecture will be used throughout. The new funeral home, which

will be constructed of Palos Verdes and Santa Maria stone, will be placed toward the rear of the lot and considerable landscaping will beautify the property from the street. The chapel will be constructed on the corner and will be completely divorced from the rest of the mortuary, thus enabling its use for wedding parties.

A large patio open to the sky and street will separate the two portions of the funeral home. Halverson has taken in to consideration the future growth of the city.

**Third Mortuary**  
The new Torrance mortuary will be the third mortuary operated by the firm. The other two being located in San Pedro and Avalon. A fleet of eight Cadillac cars will serve the San Pedro and Torrance mortuaries. In addition to the local mortuaries, the Halverson family operates a total of ten mortuaries.

Halverson will personally manage the Torrance office

## We're In The Top Bracket

**EDITORIAL**  
Publisher and staff of the Torrance Press are gratified to learn that in an impartial analysis of this newspaper, along with other weekly newspapers of the state, the Torrance Press has earned a rating of AAA and the designation of, "One of the Best Weekly Newspapers in America."

The Torrance Press was analyzed and rated with other weekly papers of the state as part of a nationwide evaluation study of community newspapers. The ratings were made and reported of the ratings published as a guide for large national advertisers in the selection and use of local newspapers for advertising campaigns.

While the high rating received is gratifying to the staff, it is more important to the growing number of readers who subscribe to the Torrance Press. The high rating by experts justifies the expenditure by the individual who pays his money for this newspaper.

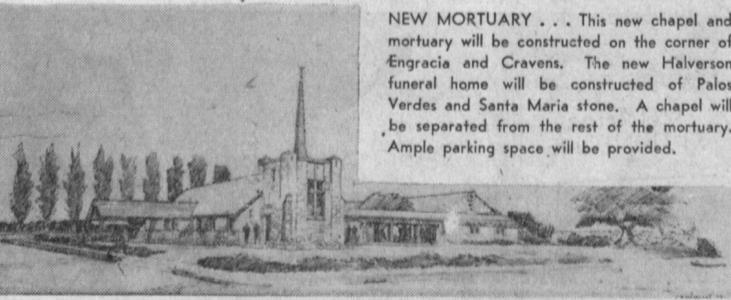
The high rating earned by the Torrance Press should be of more than passing interest to the increasing number of advertisers who use its columns. The circulation coverage was one of the important factors used in rating the paper. In rating the circulation of this and other newspapers, the Community Research Bureau checked every possible source for accurate figures such as circulation audit reports and sworn circulation statements on file with the Post Office Department in Washington.

Also of importance to advertisers is the fact that the rating organization made a comparative study of the advertising rates of each newspaper and included this factor in the rating of the newspaper.

The four-point rating formula adds up to the fact that the subscribers of the Torrance Press are getting a high volume of local news, editorials and features and that the advertiser is getting good coverage at a rate which is low compared with that charged for other newspapers, based on averages for the state and nation.

The Torrance Press is happy about the good rating and it is also determined to continue its efforts to produce the very best newspaper it is possible to give this growing community.

The Torrance Press is also grateful to the readers and advertisers whose generous support has made it possible for us to achieve the high rating.



NEW MORTUARY . . . This new chapel and mortuary will be constructed on the corner of Engracia and Cravens. The new Halverson funeral home will be constructed of Palos Verdes and Santa Maria stone. A chapel will be separated from the rest of the mortuary. Ample parking space will be provided.

## Congressman King Helps Reunite Torrance Family

An act of Congress engineered by Congressman Cecil R. King may re-unite a Torrance husband and wife who have been separated by 3,000 miles for the last year by a legal technicality.

Now pending Senate confirmation, is House Resolution 8244, a bill introduced by Congressman King five months ago "for the relief of Mrs. Dorothy Nell Woolgar Allen" which unanimously passed the House of Representatives early this month.

The bill, as enacted by the House, "admits to the United States for permanent residence" Mrs. Allen, whose home is at 1522 Beech Avenue, Torrance.

**Technicality**

Mrs. Allen originally entered the United States on a visitors visa in 1938, moved to Torrance in 1943, married in 1946 and last year returned to Canada in order to make a proper entry into this country. She was barred from re-entry by the Immigration Department on a technical count and for the past 12 months has been living in Toronto, Canada while awaiting the final grind of legal wheels that will let her return to her husband and home in Torrance.

After exhausting all other legal courses of action, Thomas R. Allen, a maintenance electrician at National Supply Company, presented the plight of his wife to his Congressman, Cecil R. King, early this year.

## Pick Up Photo Contest Photos

Several photographs submitted for the Annual Torrance Press Amateur Photo contest are still at the Press office. Entrants are asked to pick them up as soon as possible.

While Congressman King carried the bill in Washington South Bay Municipal Court Judge John A. Shidler, and Rev. Arthur E. Bello, Rector of St. Andrews Episcopal Church of Torrance, furnished the required data for Congressional intervention.

After introduction by Congressman King, the Bill to aid Mrs. Allen, was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, and then followed a long series of investigation, committee reports and more checking.

**Fights Deadline**  
Because of the mass of National and International matters before the House of Representatives and its various committees, H. R. 8244 seemed destined to be passed over by this session of Congress. The

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## TIME AND TIME AGAIN

"I sold everything, I had wonderful results advertising in section."

This remark was made by Mrs. B. C. Thomas of 1663 W. 214th st. who placed the following ad in the Torrance Press:

**FOR SALE:** Complete camping equipment. Reasonable. FA. 8-5999

Mrs. Thomas's statement is typical of the remarks made by our classified advertisers.

It's a story that deserves repeating, and that's why we remind you of it, week after week.

# Accidental Shot Kills Playmate

An accidental blast from a 16-gauge shotgun killed 10-year-old Bery Wright when his 14-year-old playmate, Chester Eugene Miller, stumbled and fell while trying to scare Wright and two other brothers out of the house with the gun.

The blast hit Berry Raine Wright of 2450 W. 237th St., Torrance, in the side, killing him almost instantly while his two brothers, Gerry, a twin, and John, 8, watched in horror.

Chester Eugene Miller, 14, of 2456 - 237th St., Torrance, was taken into custody by police but was later released into the custody of his parents, according to Torrance police.

According to police, the three brothers had been playing in the Miller boy's yard and followed him into the house.

Miller told them that his mother had taken his younger brother Danny, 7, to the doctor and that she didn't want the boys playing in the house while she was gone.

**Gets Gun**

When the Wright brothers refused to leave, officers said, young Miller went to a closet in the bedroom, got his father's shotgun, loaded it and then told the brothers:

"I want you to leave right now. This gun is loaded and I don't want my mother to come home and find you here."

Then, according to police, the Miller boy took a step forward, stumbled over a pair of shoes beside the bed and fell, accidentally discharging the gun.

"I thought my brother dodged the shot," said Gerry, "but then he screamed and yelled and fell over on the floor."

Young Miller said, "The gun went off and I saw Bery sit down on the floor. Then I saw the blood running out of his back. He said something I couldn't understand. He just sat on the floor and then he fell over."

The Wright brothers and their parents had moved into the neighborhood only two weeks ago.

Miller was quoted as saying: "I didn't mean to shoot him, I only meant to scare them."

Both surviving Wright boys verified Miller's story that the shooting was accidental and said they were turning to leave the Miller house when the shooting occurred.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester E. Miller Sr., both were absent when the shooting happened. Miller was working at a Torrance aircraft plant and Mrs. Miller was in Wilmington at a doctor's office.